

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

RSC-01 INR-07 PA-01 PRS-01 MC-01 ACDA-05 OPR-01 AID-05

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O P 171145Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8967

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 1005

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: SEVENTEENTH DAY OF KC DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 943

1. SUMMARY: THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY CONTINUES TO BE RELATIVELY LOW AROUND PHNOM PENH AND ALONG THE LOWER MEKONG. A KHMER AIR FORCE (KAF) T-28 FIGHTER PLANE CRASHED IN ENEMY TERRITORY.

END SUMMARY.

2. A KAF T-28 FIGHTERPLANE CRASHED ON JANUARY 16 IN ENEMY TERRITORY ALONG ROUTE 1 SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH. THE PLANE HAS NOT BEEN FOUND AND THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH IS NOT KNOWN, ALTHOUGH IT MAY WELL HAVE BEEN DUE TO ENGINE FAILURE. A FANK INTERCEPT OF A KC RADIO TRANSMISSION INDICATES THE PILOT IS ALIVE AND IN ENEMY HANDS.

3. FIGHTING IN THENEAK LUONG AREA WAS AGAIN LIGHT IN COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS LEVELS OF ACTIVITY. A CONVOY
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FROM PHNOM PENH ARRIVED IN NEAK LUONG ON THE MORNING OF

JANUARY 17, CARRYING WEAPONS, AMMUNITION, TROOPS AND RICE. ONE NAVY EXCORT CRAFT IN THE CONVOY WAS SERIOUSLY DAMAGED IN AN ATTACK BY FIRE.

4. THE KC FOR THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS HAVE BEEN LAUNCHING ATTACKS BY FIRE AT THE POORLY-DEFENDED OIL STORAGE FACILITY NORTH OF PHNOM PENH ON ROUTE 5. THERE HAVE BEEN FRIENDLY CASUALTIES AS A RESULT OF THESE ATTACKS AND ONE TERRITORIAL UNIT HAS ABANDONED ITS POSITION. ON JANUARY 17, ONE ROUND HIT A STORAGE TANK BUT CAUSED NO DAMAGE. AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE, FANK HAS BEEN MOVING SOME OF THE OIL TO OTHER LOCATIONS AS WELL AS SENDING MILITARY REINFORCEMENTS TO PROTECT THE AREA.

5. THERE WAS NO CHANGE ON THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG OPPOSITE PHNOM PENH AND ON ROUTE 61 NORTHEAST OF THE CITY, BUT FRIENDLY UNITS ARE GRADUALLY BEING WORN DOWN BY THE HARD, INCLUSIVE FIGHTING THAT IS GOING ON IN THIS AREA.

6. THE 3RD DIVISION OPERATING NORTH OF ROUTE 4 HAS REPORTED INFLECTING HEAVY CASUALTIES ON COMMUNIST FORCES IN A JANUARY 16 CLEARING OPERATION.

7. FIVE 107MM ROCKETS LANDED NORTH OF POCHENTONG DURING THE EVENING OF JANUARY 16. THERE WAS NO DAMAGE TO THE AIRPORT AND NO CASUALTIES REPORTED.

8. ROUTE 6 IN NORTHWESTERN CAMBODIA BETWEEN SIEM REAP AND THE THAI BORDER REMAINS CUT.
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